

## **CANYONLANDS of USA 2017**

A nature/walking tour for Kiwi Seniors



**06-30 October 2017**





## CANYONLANDS of USA NATURE/WALKING TOUR – 2017

### INTRODUCTION

This tour information package details a uniquely designed, extended-length nature/walking tour arranged and escorted by Wildside Travel. This is a 25 day Canyonlands Southwest USA National Parks tour. The trip will be a comfortable sized group tour with a maximum 20 tour members – travelling and exploring from the comfort of a luxury coach. In keeping with tradition, this nature/walking tour includes collections of easy to moderate forest, meadow, desert and alpine trail walks, located in a wide range of National and State Parks within the Southern States of California, Arizona, Utah and Nevada. The USA tour is interspaced with time to relax and leisurely explore some of the more interesting townships and regions we travel through. The itinerary includes many two and three night stays in the same place – so tour members can really settle in and enjoy their fascinating surroundings.

### TOUR INFORMATION

#### CANYONLANDS - SOUTHWEST USA

This itinerary has huge popularity with Kiwis, spending 25 days exploring a broad area of the American southwest – visiting the deserts and red-rock landscapes of southern Arizona, the spectacular canyon and mesa lands of Utah – and finally the fertile orchard and farmlands of southern California. The tour is scheduled to coincide with autumn in the USA southwest so tour members can enjoy beautiful settled weather and moderate temperatures at a quieter time of the year during our explorations.

**Features include:** Visits to The Sonora Desert Museum (humming bird and butterfly enclosures and desert habitats for mountain lions, javelina, wolves and coyotes); walks in the Grand Canyon and Monument Valley. Plus Joshua Tree, Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Bryce and Zion National Parks. Tour members will also encounter a multitude of wildlife while on tour – from the tiny ‘critters’ like squirrels and chipmunks, through to the larger animals such as coyote, deer, elk and pronghorn antelope.

#### WILDSIDE: TOUR HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Wildside Travel is owned and operated by Andrea Livingston, who has worked in the Travel Industry since 1996 with the last 15 years in the Adventure Travel arena. Andrea has escorted over 32 tours, from South and Central America, Canada, Alaska, India and Vietnam and more recently the South Pacific Islands of Niue, Samoa and Rarotonga all of which are Wildside Travel creations.

The company was founded in 2006 as a boredom-buster, for Andrea to write and escort her own itineraries. Wildside is synonymous with the development of Cycle touring in Samoa – offering the very first and very successful 15 days leisure tours over a four year period. Cycling is now a ‘must-do’ activity for visitors to Samoa. In 2010 Andrea went solo and became a Travel Broker with her own unique brand and since then has branched out into extended-length tours in the Southern hemisphere and now North America. Company policy is to offer opportunities and experiences ‘less ordinary’ to active, open age, inclusive, like minded, good humored groups ☺

### TRAVELLING WITH US

#### TOUR CONTENT

The content of our nature/walking tour is extensive. A well-balanced mix of easy to moderate nature walks within groomed and formed trails in a diverse range of 17 different North American National and State Parks. These are complemented with visits to a collection of cultural and historical sites, Botanical Gardens and Desert Museums allowing us exploration of many fascinating off-the-beaten-track spots. Expect each day to throw up new surprises!

#### VALUE FOR MONEY

With so many variations of desert and Canyonland experiences packed into one itinerary we strive to offer an exciting programme balanced with relaxed and well-appointed high quality motels and a comfortable luxury coach. We include most breakfasts, all lunches and five dinners over the length of the tour. With all entrance fees to Parks and attractions

we visit coupled with International flights from New Zealand, our tour price represents an incredible all-inclusive value that would be hard to beat. We aim to deliver that once-in-a-lifetime travelling experience.

### TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

Much time and effort has gone into researching and selecting not only good quality accommodation for our tour, but well located for our tour activities, appropriate to our style, and delivering the comfort we seek at the end of our day. We often stay in places less visited by mainstream tourism, which further adds to the rich and often unique memories tour members return home with.

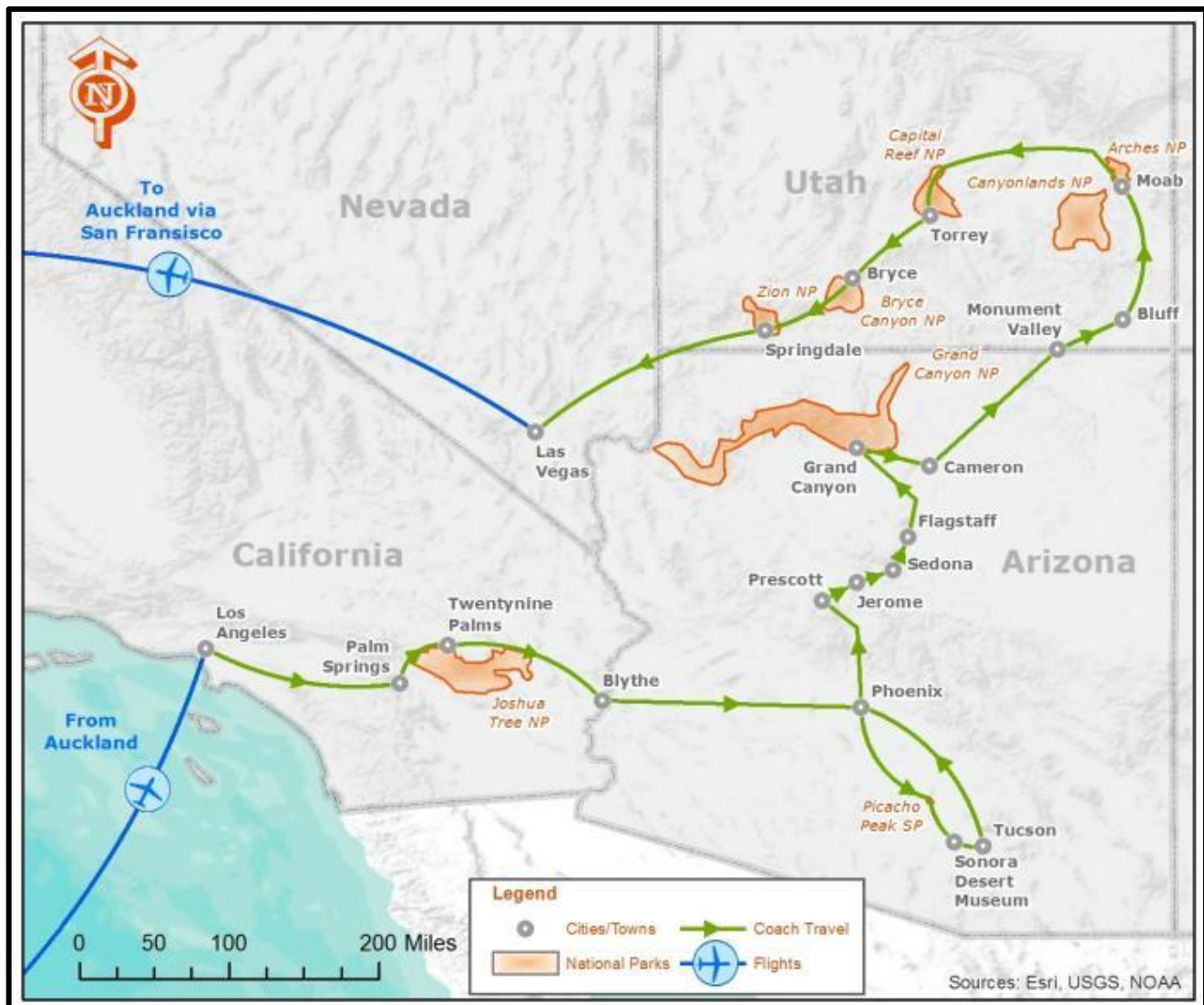
### TOUR GROUP SIZE

We have three Tour Leaders on this tour which enables us to split into smaller numbers to journey and explore at a relaxed and leisurely pace suitable for different abilities ensuring all members receive maximum enjoyment. We spend several nights in feature areas so we are not continually on the move and forever packing and unpacking. This also allows us to cater more to the individual desires of tour members who may wish to complement walking with a passion for photography, flora and fauna, or perhaps history and culture.

### FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND NO WORK ROSTERS

We nurture a warm, friendly and inclusive atmosphere while on tour. We all share the many wonderful walks, the exploring of amazing places and the sharing of exiting new experiences while on tour. We endeavor to provide some relaxing social time each evening so members can share their days experiences. There are no work rosters on tour and you may choose to help as much or as little as you wish in the way of general tour chores such as washing and tidying up after tour meals, etc. Your tour leaders are your guides, cooks, grocery shoppers, general organizers and luggage handlers.

### MAP



## ITINERARY: CANYONLANDS SOUTHWEST USA TOUR

**Friday October 6th – Monday October 30th, 2017**

### **Days 1 – 3 (6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October)**

Our group departs Auckland International Airport the evening of Friday October 6th for a direct flight to Los Angeles International Airport, arriving early afternoon of the same day Friday October 6th. After taking time for a short rest, and to freshen up in our nearby hotel, we meet our American tour driver and board the coach for a short drive to the coast where we can enjoy an afternoon walk on the fine sands or boardwalk and to explore the shops of beautiful Manhattan Beach. We will have dinner here at a local Bar & Grill. On the morning of day two, after enjoying breakfast in the dining area of our hotel, we load luggage and board our coach for the first major drive, along the broad Los Angeles City motorways and out into the rolling hills of the California hinterlands. We have scheduled two days in this area of Southern California to enjoy some of the attractions of San Jacinto State Park in Palm Springs, plus Joshua Tree National Park – while staying in the nearby desert township of Twentynine Palms. A full day exploring the wonders of Joshua Tree Park before we arrive to stay in a quiet motel complex in the town of Blythe, located right on the California/Arizona State border.

**Features Include:** An afternoon ride on the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway to enjoy an alpine walk in the forested San Jacinto Mountains; a fascinating day of varied nature walks in Joshua Tree National Park complemented with visits to the National Park Visitor/interpretative centres on each side of the park.

### **Days 4 – 6 (9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October)**

The morning of day four sees us cross the Colorado River and enter the State of Arizona, where we journey east along the Route 10 motorway, past the sprawling city of Phoenix, and south towards Tucson for our feature afternoon visit to view the beautiful cactus while strolling along the nature trails of Picacho Peak State Park. Next, we arrive for a three night stay in modern motel rooms on the outskirts of Tucson City. Here we have two full days visiting the numerous parks and other attractions within the Tucson locality.

**Features Include:** Visits to discover the amazing plants and animals featured in the world renowned Sonora Desert Museum – plus explorations of Tohono Chul Botanical Park and Catalina State Park, both located nearby to our Inn in Tucson. Also scheduled for our time spent here in southern Arizona is a visit to the beautiful Mission San Xavier, a shrine church for Native Americans, now a National Landmark.

### **Days 7 – 9 (12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October)**

After enjoying a complimentary breakfast in the dining area of our Inn, we depart Tucson to journey north along the scenic byway to the historic city of Prescott located in the vast ponderosa pine forests of northern Arizona. An overnight stay here with part of the next day to explore the attractions in and around Prescott, before travelling further north to arrive for two nights stay in pretty Oak Creek Village located on the outskirts of the new-age township of Sedona, set amid a magnificent landscape of sculptured red-rock formations. A full day scheduled here in order to explore the township and to enjoy some of the amazing local attractions and walkways.

**Features Include:** Walks in both Prescott and the nearby historic mining town of Jerome to explore the artsy shops whilst on our drive to Sedona; a visit to the historic Indian dwelling and visitor centre at Tuzigoot near Sedona – plus time to enjoy the new age shops, galleries and other attractions of Sedona itself.

### **Days 10 – 12 (15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October)**

We depart the beautiful red-rock surrounds in Oak Creek Village, to journey north through the city of Flagstaff and onwards to enter Grand Canyon National Park where we stay for two nights in a comfortable lodge just a few kilometers from the canyon's spectacular South Rim. A full day here to experience what is certainly one of the most amazing natural wonders of the world. Day 12 sees us depart our lodgings in the South Rim Village, but with time to further enjoy the breath-taking Grand Canyon scenery as we drive the Desert View scenic highway eastwards to our final night's accommodations in Arizona – in spacious and beautifully appointed motel units in the historic trading post township of Cameron.

**Features Include:** A visit to Walnut Canyon National Monument near the city of Flagstaff to walk amongst the ancient cliff dwellings of the early native North American Indians; opportunities to stroll the pathways along the South Rim of

the Grand Canyon to view bighorn sheep, deer and perhaps the huge North American Condor, plus options for keener walkers to descend part-way into the canyon along the Bright Angel Trail.

**Days 13 – 17** (18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October)

On day 13 we travel northeast into the State of Utah, to visit world-renown Monument Valley located on Navajo Indian Nation lands and encompassing the astounding mesa and butte geological formations featured in so many well-known movies. Tour members have the opportunity to walk and explore in the valley before the end of the day sees us check into our luxury lodgings at the Desert Rose Inn located in a tranquil canyon-land setting in the tiny historic township of Bluff, founded by Mormon pioneers in the early 1880's. From Bluff we journey further north to arrive for four nights stay in the well-known resort town of Moab, where we have three full days to experience the scenic wonders of both Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, and the township of Moab itself.

**Features Include:** Nature walks in both Monument Valley and the spectacular Arches National Park and trail walking in the "Islands in the Sky" region of Canyonlands National Park. Day four in Moab is a free day for tour members to explore the local walkways and attractions of the beautiful township itself.

**Days 18 – 23** (23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October)

We depart Moab to travel southwest across the fascinating desert interior of Utah, and to stay two consecutive nights in the tiny township of Torrey while we take a full day to explore nearby Capitol Reef National Park. The next two nights we spend in central Utah are in modern motel units nearby to the colorful Bryce Canyon National Park. With its sculptured canyon walls and multi-colored rock spires, Bryce Canyon is one of the most visually spectacular features of our whole tour! Our group has a full day here in Bryce to walk down into the canyon amid the fascinating rock spires, to view deer grazing in the meadows and forests along the canyon rim and to take any number of photographs in this amazing locality. From Bryce Canyon, and to complete our Utah Canyonlands experience, we enjoy a short drive over to the neighboring Zion National Park. With its wonderful dry climate, amazing plants, beautiful Virgin River and towering rock walls. Zion has become a tour favorite – and this is not to mention the charming township of Springdale where we stay for two nights in modern spacious motel units nearby to the park. One afternoon plus a full day to enjoy this amazing location.

**Features Include:** A feature stroll amongst the amazing stone "goblins" in Goblin State Park on-route to Torrey on day 18, walking opportunities along valley and canyon rim nature trails in each of Capitol Reef, Bryce and Zion National Parks, plus time to visit and enjoy all three National Park Interpretative Centre's.

**Days 24 – 25** (29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> October)

On day 24 we farewell the wonders of the Utah landscape to journey west and then south along the main highways, into the state of Nevada. As we descend into the south-western corner of Nevada we arrive into the visually stunning surrounds of the world famous casino city of Las Vegas. Although perhaps a digression from the nature/walking & Canyonlands tour theme, our scheduled afternoon and evening exploration of Las Vegas is a truly fascinating experience not to be missed. With Accommodation conveniently located right on the renowned Las Vegas Strip, we have ample time to stroll along Las Vegas Boulevard to enjoy the street-side attractions, the many shops and to just embrace the whole eye-opening experience that is Vegas. Don't worry about being intimidated by this very modern and fascinating city. From the hotel entrance your tour leaders will take you on an introductory afternoon walk to familiarize you with the workings of this amazing tourist city. There will be an opportunity to purchase show tickets for any performances you would like to see.

On day 25, after enjoying breakfast we have free time on our final day of tour. Once checked out of our hotel before midday we have time for one last explore on the outskirts of the city together before we board our connecting flight to San Francisco and link with our flight to Auckland. We depart Las Vegas in the afternoon of Monday October 30th and arrive in Auckland in the early morning of Wednesday November 1st. (October 31st is lost crossing the International Date Line)

**Features Include:** For our final two days on tour our hotel is located on the renowned Las Vegas Strip with easy access to stroll the sidewalks of Las Vegas Boulevard to take in all the visual attractions, and to experience a live Vegas Show.

## Terms & Conditions: CANYONLANDS SOUTHWEST USA TOUR

**CANYONLANDS USA: Departs Auckland Friday 6th October 2017**

**TOUR PRICE: \$12,500 per person**

### TOUR COSTS INCLUDE

**\*All Vehicle Transportation:** Tour coach transport in the USA, plus any necessary airport shuttles or Taxis required facilitating travels.

**\*Group Flights:** Auckland – Los Angeles / Las Vegas – San Francisco - Auckland

1 NZ 6 **06OCT** Auckland – Los Angeles depart 1930 hrs arrive 1135 hrs

2 On Tour

3 NZ9238 **30OCT** Las Vegas – San Francisco depart 1705 hrs arrive 1839 hrs

4 NZ 7 **30OCT** San Francisco – Auckland depart 2050 hrs arrive 0540 hrs **01NOV**

Air New Zealand. Domestic flights can be added from all Provincial towns and Cities:

\*Main Trunk \$80 each way (Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin)

\*North Island Provincial \$110 each way

\*South Island Provincial \$130 each way

**\*All Tour Accommodations:** Motels, hotels, and lodges as detailed in your tour itinerary.

**\*All Entry Fees/Permits:** To Parks or any featured attractions or activities specific to the tour.

Examples: Palm Springs Aerial Tramway excursion. Sonara Desert Museum, Tucson Botanical Gardens.

**\*Meals:** Many breakfasts, all lunches, plus some dinners.

### MEALS FOR YOUR TOUR

Complimentary breakfasts will be provided by many of the accommodations chosen, any that do not offer complimentary, often have a restaurant to purchase breakfast. Plenty of warning will be given to stock up on items if required.

Picnic lunches are provided for all days of travelling. We run a sandwich-making operation every morning before we leave for the days exploring.

We also aim to provide a number of dinners on tour so tour members can enjoy some healthy home-style meals as a break from dining out in the evenings while on tour.

### PACKING

One main luggage bag (ideally with wheels) plus a daypack suitable for air-flight carry-on baggage. Casual travelling and walking clothes, lightweight walking shoes and a good quality raincoat are the core ingredients! Tour members will be given a detailed Packing list at time of booking.

### AGE AND CAPABILITIES

This Wildside Travel nature/walking tour is designed to appeal to, and suit mature travellers. Age is of no consideration provided you are a reasonably active person. The majority of our tour member's fall into the 60's to late 70's age range and enjoy our very peaceful, unhurried style of small-group travel.

The tour is based around a nature theme with the walking arranged as a healthy and relaxing way to further enjoy the beautiful and fascinating desert areas we explore. Each day generally includes several two/three hour walks, and many one hour rambles with a picnic lunch. We will offer alternative activities for tour members who wish to forgo particular tour walks. We are happy to help in any way, to make your tour with us as enjoyable and as memorable as possible.

### ROOMING

Rooms will be either Double or Twin-share. For single travelers we are happy to find room mates (same gender). Or if you prefer you may opt to have a Single room on your own and pay a single supplement of \$2750.



## BOOKING PROCEDURE

To secure your booking on the Canyonlands Southwest USA Tour, please complete the enclosed form (one per couple) and forward to us with copies of your passports and a non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person.

## PAYMENT FOR YOUR NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

The balance of your tour cost is due 65 days before tour departure, **02 August 2017**. Payment can be made via Bank Transfer, Credit Card or Cheque.

## CANCELLATION TERMS

Should **Wildside Travel** cancel the trip, for any reason beyond our control, you will receive a full refund of all monies paid.

Should **you** need to cancel, your deposit is forfeited. If you have paid in full (after 02 August) a refund will be calculated as follows:

|                         |   |                                 |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Any time after booking  | : | Loss of Deposit                 |
| Up to full payment date | : | Loss of Deposit                 |
| 65 days to 30 days      | : | 50% of tour price is forfeited  |
| Inside 30 days          | : | 100% of tour price is forfeited |

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Comprehensive Travel & Medical Insurance is essential for tours to North America. We would recommend you purchase insurance at the same time you make any payments so we can be completely confident of your cover. You may choose a cancellation cover when paying a deposit and a full cover policy when paying in full.

You will be required to provide us with details of your Travel Insurance and any medical conditions we should know about at final payment date: Insurer, policy number, contact phone number required.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

All participants must be in possession of a valid passport (valid for 6 months after the date of your return) and all visas, permits required for your passport type. It is ultimately your responsibility to have the necessary documentation to travel.

New Zealand passport holders are required to complete an online USA visa-waiver at least 3 days before you depart.

We will provide the web link to do so in plenty of time, currently USD\$14 per visa. If you have another type of passport, please let us know.

## CONDITIONS

Wildside will do everything possible to ensure your tour to North America is a wonderful travelling experience – but we do reserve the right to amend the itinerary of any tour due to weather, road and vehicle problems, or other civil circumstances beyond our control. We will also endeavor to take the utmost care of you and your personal property, but we will not be held liable for any accident, personal injury, damage or loss of property, delays or defaults in the performance of other operators whose services we employ.

## Booking Form: CANYONLANDS SOUTHWEST USA TOUR

Please complete, sign and return this form, along with a photocopy of the front page of your passport and a non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person to:

### WILDSIDE TRAVEL

PO Box 215

MOTUEKA 7120

Mr / Mrs / Miss/ Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Known as: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Day-time or Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Any Dietary Requirements we need to know \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact person name and number \_\_\_\_\_

Walking Group or Club you belong to \_\_\_\_\_

I understand Insurance is essential on this trip. Please provide a quote for us

Yes / No Thank You

Please add our Domestic flights to /from Auckland in conjunction with Tour arrangements

Yes / No Thank You

Frequent Flyer Number/Meals/Seating preference \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer a Single room on my own and pay the \$2750 Single Supplement \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Wildside Travel tour booking terms & conditions for the nature/walking tour travelling to the USA Canyonlands in October 2017, and accept them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE (*both signatures required*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

### Payment options:

**Cheques** – payable to 'Wildside Travel'

**Bank Transfer** – ASB 12-3244-0006728-00 Reference: Surname/336685

**Credit Card** – A 2% surcharge will apply

Visa / MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ CSC: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

**wildside**  
for travel less ordinary

**TAANZ** | APPROVED  
TRAVEL BROKER